



NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteer blitz spruces up neighborhood

More than 150 volunteers convened on the Old North Hampton area May 18 with a unified purpose: To help 17 elderly, low- to-moderate-income and disabled homeowners with exterior home repairs and yard cleanups.

The one-day blitz was coordinated by a three-agency partnership: The City of Hampton, Habitat for Humanity and the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The organizations worked together to qualify homeowners, coordinate skilled team leaders to plan the work, obtain donations, and recruit helpers.

Volunteers pitched in from Hampton and surrounding areas, including people from several church groups and other neighborhoods. Military volunteers included 65 from Langley Air Force Base and 30 from Fort Eustis. The volunteers performed such tasks as: scraping and painting; repairs to porches, gutters and fences; yard cleanup; power washing; and debris removal.

Homeowners were to be responsible for the cost of materials; however, companies donated many of the necessary materials.

Several businesses and organizations donated goods and services: Treated Lumber Outlet donated materials, as did Morris Lawn Maintenance; The Y.H. Thomas Athletic Association and Queen Street Baptist Church provided meals; and Y.H. Thomas and Quincy Carr Inc. sponsored t-shirts for the volunteers.

The area included homes off Rip Rap Road, roughly in the neighborhood of the YH Thomas Community Center and park.

With the success of the first housing repair blitz, organizers are hoping to target another neighborhood for a one-day blitz in the fall, with a goal of sprucing up two different areas each year.